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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,312	06/26/2003	Daisuke Aoki	03500.017391	3187
5514	7590	12/01/2004		
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			EXAMINER	
			BOLLINGER, DAVID H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3653	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/606,312

Applicant(s)

AOKI ET AL.

Examiner

David H Bollinger

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
2a)  This action is FINAL.      2b)  This action is non-final.  
3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_. is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1-6,9 and 10 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10)  The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2003 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
    a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
        1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
        2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
        3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)      4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)      Paper No(s)/Mail Date, \_\_\_\_\_  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4 August 2003      5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1 through 6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1 lines 10-11, lines 13-14, line 18 and claim 6 line 2, the language "the sheet feeding means" lacks proper antecedent basis. The "sheet feeding means" has not been previously positively recited. The recitation of a sheet feeding means in lines 3-4 is not a positive recitation of the sheet feeding means as a part of the sheet feeding device.

In claim 1 lines 10-15 and claim 9 lines 14-19, it is not understood how a "cam member" per se can perform the stated function. It is the cooperation of the cam member with other elements of the invention which performs the recited function and it is unclear if all the required elements to permit the performance of the stated function have been recited or if sufficient structure is recited the operative relationship among the various structural elements has not been clearly established.

In claim 1 lines 27-32 and claim 9 lines 31-36, it is not understood how the stated function is performed when the sheet containing means is accommodated in the apparatus main body as insufficient structure has been recited.

In claim 2 lines 5-8, it is not clearly understood how retention of the sheet feeding means is canceled as recited as insufficient structure has been recited.

In claim 3, it is unclear how the stated function is performed as insufficient structure has been recited to perform the stated function.

In claim 4 lines 5-7, it is not understood how the pressurization portion does not prevent the canceling member from returning since the structural relationship between these elements has not been clearly established.

In claim 6, it is not understood how the recited function is performed as it is unclear if sufficient structure has been recited to permit such function to be performed or if sufficient structure is claimed the structural relationship among the various elements to perform the stated function has not been clearly established.

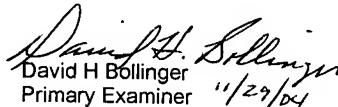
In claim 10 line 6, line 7, line 16, line 18, line 19 and line 23, the language "the pick-up roller" lacks proper antecedent basis. The recitation of a pick-up roller in line 4 is not a positive recitation of the pick-up roller as part of the image forming apparatus.

3. Claims 1 through 6, 9 and 10 appear they would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.
4. Claims 7 and 8 are allowed.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David H Bollinger whose telephone number is 703-308-1113. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh, can be reached on 703-306-4173. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
David H Bollinger  
Primary Examiner  
1/29/04  
Art Unit 3653